

We claim:

1. A method for an EWI (email waiting indication) query of an mail server (MS) located in a packet-switched network (IPNET) via a PSTN terminal device (TEL), comprising:
  - a) inputting of service access information (SAC(E.164)) at the PSTN or mobile terminal device (TEL),
  - b) transmitting a trigger to an internode module (INM),
  - c) generating an EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)) at the internode module (INM),
  - d) adapting the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)) for transmission over the packet-switched network (IPNET),
  - e) transmitting the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)) to an application server (EWIS), and
  - f) submitting a query (qu(uid, PW, adMS, adEWIS)) to the mail server (MS) via the application server (EWIS).
2. The method according to claim 1, characterised in that the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)) is adapted for transmission over the packet-switched network (IPNET) in a RAS (remote access server) server (POP).
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the service access information (SAC(E.164)) is transmitted to the internode module (INM) via a central office (CO), a mobile exchange, a private branch exchange (PBX), or a transit exchange (TX).
4. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the internode module (INM) forms part of a transit exchange or an open service platform (OSP).
5. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the internode module (INM) is located in a standalone platform.

10

6. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the DSS1 protocol or analogue subscriber line is employed for transmission of the service access information (SAC(E.164)) to the internode module (INM).

5

7. The method according to one of the claims 2 to 6, characterised in that the DSS1 protocol is employed for transmission of the EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)) to the RAS server (POP).

10

8. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the POP3 protocol, the IMAP protocol or the SMTP protocol is employed for the query of the mail server (MS).

15

9. The method according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that information (inf) retrieved through the IMW query is sent to a service subscriber via voice message.

20

10. The method according to one of the claims 1 to 8, characterised in that information (inf) retrieved through the IMW query is sent to a service subscriber via SMS message.

25

11. Internode module (INM) to carry through a method according to one of the claims 1 to 10, comprising means for generating an EWI request (rq(aid, E.164, iauth, adEWIS)).